



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

EXPANSION OF LIVE STOCK REPORTING BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

W. F. CALLANDER

There has been a growing demand in recent years on the part of live stock producers for more and better statistics concerning live stock production and live stock movements. To meet this demand steps have recently been taken by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to greatly enlarge the work of live stock reporting.

The live stock statistical work, as carried on by the former Bureau of Crop Estimates, has been confined to (1) an annual estimate on January 1 of each year of the number of horses, mules, milk cows, other cattle, sheep, and swine, on farms, with average values per head; (2) an annual estimate of the number of brood sows on farms ascertained on a percentage basis and interpreted numerically; (3) an annual estimate of mortality of different species of live stock from various causes; (4) a full estimate of the number of stock hogs on farms ascertained on a percentage basis and interpreted numerically; (5) a monthly report of farm prices of live stock.

In addition to these regular reports some experimental work has been carried on for several years with a view to determining the monthly changes in the number of live stock on farms, reports being secured monthly from about 10,000 farms. These reports show the number of cattle, sheep and swine on the farms reporting the first of the month, the number at the end of the month, and the births, deaths, sales, and purchases during the month. From these reports the net change from month to month occurring on these farms is determined. These reports, especially on hogs, have attracted considerable attention and have proven to be a fairly accurate index of the changes in numbers as indicated by receipts at stockyards.

The enlarged service will include the following:

(1) An enlargement of the scope of the present annual estimates of numbers of live stock on farms January 1 to show the age and sex of such animals.

(2) The making of a semi-annual pig survey through the rural mail carriers for the purpose of estimating the number of pigs born in the fall and spring months. The first survey of this kind was made in May of this year and covered 17 States. The next will be made in November and will cover the entire United States.

(3) Monthly reports of the changes in numbers of live stock on farms based on reports from a large number of sample farms. This will be an expansion of the experimental work already carried on. It is proposed to enlarge the list to fifty or sixty thousand farms in order to get a more stable figure.

(4) Preliminary and final estimates of the annual calf and lamb crops in the corn belt and western States.

(5) Periodical estimates of the available supplies of feeder cattle, sheep, and lambs in the range States, these estimates to be made about twice a year.

(6) Periodical estimates of the number of cattle and sheep on feed in the corn belt and elsewhere. The first of these reports will be made about December 1 and, if possible, periodically thereafter during the winter season.

(7) Monthly reports of the condition of pasture and reports on available supplies of feed particularly in the range States.

(8) Monthly reports of the actual movement of live stock as reported by railroads, public stockyards, live stock sanitary boards, and others, and based on these and other information periodical forecasts of probable future movements.

It has not been necessary to establish an entirely new organization for handling the live stock work. It is being taken care of by an increase in the statistical and clerical personnel of the existing field offices of the bureau already established in each State. An experienced statistician has been placed at Denver who will act as general supervisor of the work in the range States and a well-trained live stock specialist has been placed in Chicago to develop the work in the corn belt States.

Outside of the pig survey and the reports of the monthly changes on farms, lack of funds will prevent extension of work under the enlarged project to the eastern and southern States, with the possible exception of a special report of the spring lamb movement in Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Some work has already been done; one pig survey was made last May in 17 States and a special report was re-

cently made on the number of cattle on pasture in the Flint Hills of Kansas to which a large number of cattle are shipped in the spring from Texas for fattening on pasture. Last spring a report was made of the available supply of feeder cattle in Arizona and another report on July 1 of the available supply for fall delivery. A report was also made in Arizona recently of the available supply of lambs for fall delivery, and a special field survey of the supply of feeder cattle is now under way in the Sand Hills of Nebraska. The field men assigned to live stock work are now studying the principal live stock areas and movements in their respective States in order that the whole project may be coordinated and systematized. The compilation of back data of railroad movements is also well under way.

The work already done has created considerable interest and is receiving the enthusiastic support of the live stock producers associations of the west.

Comparatively little has been done as yet in the corn belt States, but the work will be well under way by December 1. In these States it is proposed to make periodical estimates of the number of cattle and sheep on feed, and also to make estimates of probable movements out to market.

The general plan for forecasting the probable movement of cattle and sheep in feed lots will be briefly as follows:

Each State statistician will first determine from railroad records of movement and elsewhere the number of head shipped out in preceding years during the period for which an estimate is to be made. A considerable number of live stock reporters in each area or around each shipping point will be secured from whom reports will be obtained in two ways. First, as to their own individual operations and second, as to the situation in the territory in which they reside. From these reports the percentage of increase or decrease compared with the preceding year or usual year will be determined and applied to the railroad record of movement of the previous year to determine the number to be shipped or available for shipment. In sections where practically all the cattle which are fattened are shipped in, the railroad station record of receipts will be a very valuable aid. The reports required by law to be made to State Live Stock Sanitary Commissions or similar organizations of stock shipped in for feeding will also be useful in making such estimates.